

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15

TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-12 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00

INRE-00 /089 W

-----028493 101559Z /44

O 101437Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2062

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4628

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV, PORG, NA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: AHTISAARI'S COMMENTS TO THE PRESS

FOLLOWING IS A NEWS ARTICLE BY DAVID FORRET WHICH APPEARED
IN THE RAND DAILY MAIL, AUGUST 10:

BEGIN TEXT: THE UNITED NATIONS' SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IN SOUTH WEST
AFRICA, MR. MARTTI AHTISAARI SAID YESTERDAY HE HAD MADE GOOD
PROGRESS IN HIS DISCUSSIONS OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS WITH THE
SWA ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL, MR. JUSTICE MARTHINUS STEYN.
THE UN MISSION'S MILITARY EXPERT, MAJOR-GENERAL HANNES PHILIPP,
LEAVES WINDHOEK TODAY ON HIS FIRST VISIT TO THE OPERATIONAL AREA
ON THE SWA/ANGOLA BORDER. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY FOUR UN
MILITARY ADVISERS AND ONE CIVILIAN.

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IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE PARTY WILL BE JOINED BY MAJOR-GENERAL
JAN GELDENHUYS, COMMANDER OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS IN THE
TERRITORY, DURING THE TWO-DAY PRELIMINARY VISIT TO THE TENSE
BORDER AREA.

MR. AHTISAARI SAID THAT ANY DIFFERENCES THAT DID COME UP BETWEEN
HIM AND MR. JUSTICE STEYN WOULD BE REFLECTED IN HIS REPORT TO UN
SECRETARY-GENERAL DR. KURT WALDHEIM. IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO

PREDICT HOW SOON THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL WOULD MEET AFTER HIS RETURN
TO
NEW YORK, HE SAID.

MR. AHTISAARI SAID HE WOULD CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS WITH POLITICAL
GROUPS THIS WEEK. THE IMPRESSION HE HAD GAINED DURING DISCUSSIONS
WITH POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVES SO FAR WAS THAT THEY SUPPORTED THE
WESTERN PROPOSALS.

"THERE IS NOW DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEM ON THE INTERPRETATION OF
THE BASIC ELEMENTS IN THE PLAN. MY COLLEAGUES ARE STUDYING THEIR
WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS AND MIGHT CONTACT THEM LATER FOR CLARIFICATION,"

THE UN REPRESENTATIVE SAID.

"WE HAVE AGREED TO FINALIZE OUR WORK HERE IN WINDHOEK AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE AND THEN MAKE TRAVEL PLANS. I HAVEN'T EVEN SEEN WINDHOEK
YET, SO I WILL SEE THIS PLACE FIRST AND THEN PERHAPS TRAVEL NORTH."
NO RESTRICTIONS HAD BEEN PLACED ON HIS TRAVELLING THROUGH THE
TERRITORY. MR. AHTISAARI WOULD NOT GIVE ANY DETAILS OF HIS
DISCUSSIONS WITH MR. JUSTICE STEYN BUTSAID THAT HE AND THE
ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL HAD AGREED TO MEET FOR FURTHER DISUCCSIONS
AS AND WHEN THE NEED AROSE.

HIS ONLY COMMENT ON THE TALKS WAS THAT A GREAT DEAL OF
IMPORTANT INFORMATION HAD BEEN GATHERED THAT WOULD ENABLE HIS
MISSION TO ADVISE DR. WALDHEIM ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
UN-ENDORSED WESTERN PEACE PROPOSALS FOR SOUTH WEST AFRICA.
IN REPLY TO A QUESTION, MR. AHTISAARI SAID THE WHOLE MATTER OF
RETURNING EXILES WOULD HAVE TO BE TACKLED IF AND WHEN THE UN
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SECURITY COUNCIL DECIDED TO APPROVE PLANS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE PROPOSALS.

"THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES HAS VAST EXPERIENCE IN
THAT FIELD," HE SAID.

SOME ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF MEMBERS OF THE UN MISSION WOULD REMAIN
BEHIND AFTER HE RETURNED TO NEW YORK TO GATHER FURTHER
INFORMATION AS IT WAS NEEDED. END TEXT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PRETOR04628
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780327-1115
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780878/aaaacmyb.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3bc75b65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1778181
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: AHTISAARI'S COMMENTS TO THE PRESS FOLLOWING IS A NEWS ARTICLE BY DAVID FORRET WHICH APPEARED IN THE RAND DAILY MAIL, AUGUST 10
TAGS: PDEV, PORC, NA, (AHTISAARI, MARTTI)
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3bc75b65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014